

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for entitlement management comprising:
 - 2 responsive to a request for a service, determining if a recipient identified in
 - 3 said request is entitled to said service;
 - 4 if said recipient is entitled to said service, delivering said service, wherein
 - 5 said step of determining if said recipient is entitled to said service comprises:
 - 6 comparing a set of administrator-configurable package attributes values
 - 7 associated with a package of services containing said service with corresponding
 - 8 values for said recipient.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising if, responsive to said determining step,
- 2 if said recipient is not entitled, sending a message to said recipient indicating said
- 3 recipient is not entitled to said service.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising configuring said set of package
- 2 attributes wherein said set of package attributes includes selected attributes having
- 3 one or more attribute values.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 determining if said service includes a limited number of accesses; and
 - 3 if said service includes a limited number of accesses, decrementing a tracking
 - 4 count associated with the service.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said substep of comparing a set of profile
- 2 attributes values associated with a package of services containing said service with
- 3 corresponding values for said recipient comprises:

4 for each profile attribute in said set of profile attributes, determining if a
5 current attribute is single-valued; and

6 if said attribute is single-valued, determining said recipient is not entitled if a
7 value of said current attribute and a corresponding value for said recipient
8 miscompare.

1 6. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of sending said message comprises
2 presenting said recipient with alternate content.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said alternate content includes a description of
2 criteria for said requested service.

1 8. The method of claim 5 wherein if said current attribute is not single-valued,
2 determining said recipient is not entitled if each value of said current attribute and a
3 corresponding value for said recipient miscompare.

1 9. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

2 logging a delivery of said service;

3 decrementing a number of available instances of said service if said service
4 has a limited usage count; and

5 sending a message to said recipient indicating said recipient is not entitled to
6 said service if the limited usage count has been consumed.

1 10. A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the
2 program product comprising programming instructions for entitlement management,
3 the programming instructions for:

4 responsive to a request for a service, determining if a recipient identified in
5 said request is entitled to said service;

6 if said recipient is entitled to said service, delivering said service, wherein

7 said programming instructions for determining if said recipient is entitled to
8 said service comprises programming instructions for

9 comparing a set of administrator-configurable package attributes values
10 associated with a package of services containing said service with corresponding
11 values for said recipient.

1 11. The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising programming
2 instructions for, if, responsive to said determining step, if said recipient is not entitled,
3 sending a message to said recipient indicating said recipient is not entitled to said
4 service.

1 12. The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising programming
2 instructions for configuring said set of package attributes wherein said set of package
3 attributes includes selected attributes having one or more attribute values.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising programming
2 instructions for:

3 determining if said service includes a limited number of accesses; and

4 if said service includes a limited number of accesses, decrementing a tracking
5 count associated with the service.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said programming
2 instructions for comparing a set of profile attributes values associated with a package
3 of services containing said service with corresponding values for said recipient
4 comprise programming instructions for:

5 for each profile attribute in said set of profile attributes, determining if a
6 current attribute is single-valued; and

7 if said attribute is single-valued, determining said recipient is not entitled if a
8 value of said current attribute and a corresponding value for said recipient
9 miscompare.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the programming instruction
2 for sending said message comprises programming instructions for presenting said
3 recipient with alternate content.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein said alternate content
2 includes a description of criteria for said requested service.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 14 further comprising programming
2 instructions for, if said current attribute is not single-valued, determining said
3 recipient is not entitled if each value of said current attribute and a corresponding
4 value for said recipient miscompare.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising programming
2 instructions for:

3 logging a delivery of said service;

- 4 decrementing a number of available instances of said service if said service
- 5 has a limited usage count; and
- 6 sending a message to said recipient indicating said recipient is not entitled to
- 7 said service. if the limited usage count has been consumed.

1 19. A data processing system for entitlement management comprising:
2 circuitry operable for, responsive to a request for a service, determining if a
3 recipient identified in said request is entitled to said service;
4 if said recipient is entitled to said service, delivering said service, wherein
5 said programming instructions for determining if said recipient is entitled to
6 said service comprises programming instructions for
7 comparing a set of administrator-configurable package attributes values
8 associated with a package of services containing said service with corresponding
9 values for said recipient.

1 20. The data processing system of claim 19 further comprising circuitry operable for,
2 if, responsive to said determining step, if said recipient is not entitled, sending a
3 message to said recipient indicating said recipient is not entitled to said service.

1 21. The data processing system of claim 19 further comprising circuitry operable for
2 configuring said set of package attributes wherein said set of package attributes
3 includes selected attributes having one or more attribute values.

1 22. The data processing system of claim 19 further comprising:
2 circuitry operable for determining if said service includes a limited number of
3 accesses; and
4 circuitry operable for, if said service includes a limited number of accesses,
5 decrementing a tracking count associated with the service.

1 23. The data processing system of claim 19 wherein said circuitry operable for
2 comparing a set of profile attributes values associated with a package of services
3 containing said service with corresponding values for said recipient comprises :

4 circuitry operable for, for each profile attribute in said set of profile attributes,
5 determining if a current attribute is single-valued; and

6 circuitry operable for, if said attribute is single-valued, determining said
7 recipient is not entitled if a value of said current attribute and a corresponding value
8 for said recipient miscompare.

1 24. The data processing system of claim 22 further comprising programming
2 instructions for, if said current attribute is not single-valued, determining said
3 recipient is not entitled if each value of said current attribute and a corresponding
4 value for said recipient miscompare.

1 25. The data processing system of claim 21 further comprising programming
2 instructions for:

3 logging a delivery of said service;

4 decrementing a number of available instances of said service if said service
5 has a limited usage count; and

6 sending a message to said recipient indicating said recipient is not entitled to
7 said service if the limited usage count has been consumed.